



General	75
Buoyage System	75
Currency	75
Government	75
Holidays	76
Industries	76
Languages	76
Time Zone	76
U.S. Embassy	76

Currency
The official unit of currency is the French African Community franc (CFAF), consisting of 100 centimes.

Government

General

Gabon, located on the Equator, is bounded on the N by Equatorial Guinea and Cameroon, on the E and S by the Republic of Congo, and on the W by the Atlantic Ocean. The country consists of a narrow coastal plain, a hilly interior, and savanna regions in the E and S.

The land is mostly covered with a dense equatorial forest. The climate is always hot and humid. There is a heavy rainfall. The dry periods are from the middle of May to the middle of September and from the middle of December to the middle of February.

Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region A) is in effect. See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information. It is reported that obsolescent buoyage (Uniform System of Buoyage) may still be encountered in some waters.



Flag of Gabon

Gabon, which received independence from France in 1960, is a republic. The President is directly-elected for a 7-year term. The bicameral legislature consists of a 91-member Senate and a 120-member National Assembly, both of which are directly-elected for 5-year terms. The Prime Minister is the head of government and appoints a Council of Ministers in consultation with the President. Opposition parties were legalized in 1990. The country is divided into nine provinces, each administered by a governor appointed by the President. The legal system is based on French civil law and customary law. The capital is Libreville.

Holidays

The following holidays are observed:

New Year's Day	January 1
Renovation Day	March 12
Easter Sunday	Varies
Easter Monday	Varies
May Day	May 1
Assumption Day	August 15
Independence Day	August 17
All Saints Day	November 1
Christmas Day	December 25

Eid-il-Fitr (End of Ramadan) and Eid-il-Adha (End of Pilgrimage) are observed Islamic holidays, the dates of which vary from year to year and are subject to the appearance of the moon. In addition, Pentecost, which varies between a few days, is also an observed holiday during May or June.

Industries

The major industries are petroleum and natural gas production, timber, mining, and food processing. Other industries include livestock raising, fishing, and tourism.

Minerals include manganese, uranium, gold, iron ore, zinc, and phosphates.

Crops include sugarcane, cassava, plantains, maize, ground-nuts, bananas, palm kernels, cocoa, coffee, and rice.

Languages

The official language is French. Several native dialects are also spoken, the principal ones being Fang, Myene, Bateke, Bapounou (Eschira), and Bandjabi.

Time Zone

The Time Zone description is ALFA (-1). Daylight Savings Time is not observed.

World Time Zone Chart

<http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/ref/pdf/802801.pdf>

U.S. Embassy

The U.S. Embassy is situated at Boulevard de la Mer, Libreville.

The mailing address is B.P. 4000, Libreville.

U. S. Embassy Gabon Home Page

<http://usembassy.state.gov/libreville>